[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

to be got rid of on the grounds set forth at the outset. He attempted to show that there is scope for a change in the constitution of that Board and the methods of its working. That is a matter of detail which the House need not go into at present. I oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for the Demand has expired. Mr. Raman Pillai, do you wish to press your motion to a division?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: My object was simply to discuss the subject. I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 162.**

The following motion fell through both for want of time and on account of its being identical with the previous motion:

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

162. To omit the allotment of Rs. 12,500 for the Economic Development Board.

***Motion* 163.**

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for the Demand having expired, there is one motion—Motion 163—which lapses.

The following motion therefore lapsed:

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI:

163. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,500 for the Economic Development Board by Rs. 10.

PRESIDENT: I put to the vote of the House the motion that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 53 lakh under Demand XXI—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments (the Public Library, the Archæological Department, the Preservation of Oriental Literature, Establishment under the Glanders and Farcy Regulation, the Public Lecture Committee, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Controller of Patents and Designs and the Economic Development Board.)

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XXII.—Public Works Department.

MR. R. EVERARD: Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 25·13 lakhs under Demand XXII—Public Works Department.

***Motion* 164.**

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

164. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,91,640 for buildings (original works) by Rs. 20,000, by not constructing the stamp manufactory in 1098. (Item 25—page 4 of appendix B. of the budget estimate.)

I should consider that the construction of a stamp manufactory at Trivandrum, for which this sum is intended, can well afford to wait for another year at any rate. Even in the matter of construction

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of buildings, I wish to state that there are very many other institutions which do stand in need of all the amount available before any amount can be allotted for the construction of the stamp manufactory. It may be that the stamp manufactory is now located in some building which is intended to be utilised for the Ophthalmic hospital. Even supposing so, the stamp manufactory may well be accommodated in some other Government building, with the help of the Chief Engineer. So far as the construction of the building is concerned, I should draw the attention of the Council as well as of the Chief Engineer to the deplorable condition of the District and Munsiffs' Courts buildings in Trivandrum. Anybody who had any occasion to see the building will certainly not mistake it for a court of law. It is clear that the Trivandrum District Court and Munsiffs' Courts do yield a very large amount by way of receipts, and that they should be left in such a neglected and deplorable condition while the Government are very anxious to put up a stamp manufactory is, I should consider, not a very desirable state of affairs. Any amount that is available should necessarily be utilised for at least giving a shape to the existing building. A look at it will convince anybody that it is hardly worth being used as a cattle-shed. It is therefore my earnest request that this sum of Rs. 20,000 and any other amount which the Chief Engineer can spare, may be diverted and utilised for the improvement of the District Court buildings. It has been hanging fire for the past so many years. I am not sure whether the Head of the Administration has seen the building. If he sees it, I am sure, he will at the very next moment grant any amount required for the building. I would only call it a shed and not a building.

MR. R. EVERARD: I rise to oppose the motion. In connection with the construction of new buildings for the Ophthalmic hospital, with the required wards, it was necessary to remove the present mint and stamp manufactory buildings to make room for the former group of buildings. The subject of the construction of new buildings for the mint and stamp manufactory has been engaging the attention of Government from 1914. An estimate for Rs. 52,500 was sanctioned by Government early in 1920. From 1914 the question of a suitable site has been under consideration, several sites having been under examination. Since then it has been decided that only a stamp manufactory is necessary and the latest proposal is to locate it in the Government Press compound. The present Press office is to be made suitable for the stamp manufactory, if possible, and a new building is to be constructed for the Press office stores. Some wards have been constructed, forming part of the new Ophthalmic hospital; but, as the site on which the present mint and stamp manufactory buildings stand has not been vacated, further work has been suspended since 1920. The dispensary has to be built. Until the dispensary and the other buildings are constructed, the eye hospital cannot be moved into them and the blocks of buildings already erected cannot be used.

The House will thus see that the delay in the construction of the stamp manufactory buildings stands in the way of completing the Ophthalmic hospital buildings. The former is therefore urgent and, unless the

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[Mr. K. George.]

House rejects the motion, the hospital will be further delayed. By constructing the stamp manufactory in the Press compound, we avoid the acquisition of fresh land and bring the stamp manufactory nearer to the stamp depôt and get the cost of conveyance minimised. I hope Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai will, in view of the facts set forth above, withdraw his objection.

With regard to Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's remarks about the deplorable condition of the Trivandrum District Court and Munsiffs' Courts building, I wish to state that the present building in which these courts are held is not under the maintenance of the Public Works Department. I admit that the buildings are unsuitable. The need for the construction of a new building was felt long ago. An estimate for Rs. 2,22,200 was sanctioned by Government in 1915. It may be possible to revise this estimate and to deduct the cost by reducing reinforced concrete as much as possible. It has not been possible to find funds for this large work as funds are required for more urgent works. I hope the financial situation will improve so that we may go on with the construction of this building.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, I should like to say a few words about the urgency of constructing a building for the stamp manufactory, besides what has been already said by Mr. Everard. There are certain urgent reasons why the stamp manufactory should be immediately constructed. Mr. Everard has mentioned one, *viz.*, that it now stands in a place where already some constructions have been made for the Ophthalmic hospital. I will enumerate some of the other reasons. First of all, there is congestion in the present building. If any member of this House will visit the building, he will see that it has got only one store room, one room for machines and one room for keeping the valuable stamps after manufacture. The various processes of gumming, drying and counting are done in the verandah. Some idea of the space that is required may be had from the statistics of the printing that is now done in that building. I read the statistics for the years 1095 and 1096:

Stamps	1095	31¼ lakhs.
	1096	21½ lakhs.
Covers	1095	19¾ lakhs.
	1096	21 lakhs.
Anchal stamps and Service stamps	1095	143 lakhs.
	1096	103 lakhs.
Court Fee stamp papers	1095	11 lakhs.
	1096	14½ lakhs.

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Court Fee labels	1095	18¼ lakhs.
	1096	16¾ lakhs.
General stamp papers	1095	8¼ lakhs.
	1096	1½ lakhs.
Receipt stamps	1095	7¼ lakhs.
	1096	7¼ lakhs.

All these require space for being manufactured and stored. Besides, it is proposed that, instead of using labels for court-fees up to Rs. 10, we should use impressed sheets. We are now using labels up to Rs. 10, and the Council, I daresay, is aware that some time ago we suffered considerable loss of revenue on account of the manufacture and circulation of spurious labels. On that ground Government decided to substitute stamp paper for court-fee labels. The result is that all the 14½ lakhs of labels will have to be substituted by 14½ lakhs of papers. We have already ordered 4,000 reams of paper for this purpose and when that consignment is received there will be very little space in the building to accommodate it. As it is, there is no space whatever for the existing stock. The papers are piled up to the top of the building and it is very difficult to take them out and see whether they are safe or being eaten up by moths.

Another reason why we should immediately construct a new building for the manufactory is that the present building is not quite safe. We are storing there stamp papers and stamps to the value of several lakhs of rupees and it is very necessary that we should have a building safer than the present one.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: Was there any case of leakage?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have had one case reported to me. Those who remove papers, of course, do so very carefully.

There is also want of space in the machine room. We have 21 machines and they are all in one room. There is hardly any chance of proper work being done in the congested space in the machine room.

We are proposing to construct the new building in the premises of the Government Press. This will be attended with two advantages. First, there will be greater efficiency. Our present machines are hand-machines and every body knows what sort of stamps are manufactured by these machines. The impressions made by them are not uniform. When we take them to the Press, we propose to connect the stamp machines with the power that is supplied by the engine of the Press and then we can get uniform impressions and the stamps would then be better than the stamps now manufactured.

Then again, the most important point is the point of economy. It is not necessary to say that the hand-machines cannot produce half the

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

quantity which the power-driven machines could be made to produce. If we shift the building to the Press, we can have the present work done by the Press engine in about half the time that we now take.

Again, there will be considerable reduction of the present wastage of paper. At present there is considerable wastage of paper in the process of manufacture and we have to destroy a large quantity annually. Most of that could be saved.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: May I know for how many years this wastage has been going on?

MR. K. GEORGE: For several years.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: Is it likely that there will be any reduction of the wastage?

MR. K. GEORGE: The present percentage of wastage may have to be allowed so long as the present arrangements continue.

Then there will also be considerable saving in the cost of establishments. At present we have a large staff of printers. There are a head printer and 25 printers. If the proposal is sanctioned, I believe that we shall be able to reduce the staff by one-half. At present two men are required for each machine, because they have to take turns. Since the machines are hand-machines, the printers cannot work throughout the day. When the work is done by the power-machines at the Government Press, the number of the staff needed would, of course, be much less.

Lastly, we shall also have a saving in the supervision charges. At present, there is a Superintendent of the stamp manufactory who looks after the mint also. If it is shifted to the Press buildings, we can ask the Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent of the Press to look after the stamp manufactory also.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I understood the President to say that it is not proposed to shift it to the Press.

PRESIDENT: I said that that proposal was not before the House then. That was all that I said.

MR. K. GEORGE: As it is proposed to construct the manufactory in the Press premises, we shall save a lot of money in land acquisition charges. Otherwise, we shall have to acquire land and build new buildings on new land.

Sir, for all these reasons, *viz.*, the removal of congestion in the existing building and the increase of efficiency and economy, I strongly oppose the motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, I quite agree with what Mr. George has said about having a new building for the stamp manufactory. The Darbar Physician may also advance strong arguments for transferring the Ophthalmic hospital to the present stamp manufactory. All the same, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's suggestion that, before thinking of

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putting up a building for the stamp manufactory, side by side with the Government Press, the building that is essentially necessary is a District Court is worthy of consideration. I happened to go to the local District Court a few months ago, and I can vouch for the accuracy of the description Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has given of the miserable condition of that building. It is inconceivable that a Government building could be kept in such a filthy and dilapidated condition. There must be a sense of proportion in the matter of buildings as in everything else. The building that is most necessary just now is a District Court and this should be first put up before estimating for any other building.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I wish to know whether Mr. Hoogewerf supports Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai or not.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I support Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, something like eight years ago the new Ophthalmic hospital was begun to be built. The construction has been stopped for the last three or four years on account of the existence of the mint buildings there, without the removal of which no further progress in the building of the hospital could be made. That has been a great disappointment, not only to the Medical Department, but also to all those who attend the Ophthalmic hospital. The partially built new building is now being used by the Census office which will certainly cause no little deterioration of the structure. The present Ophthalmic hospital is a make-shift building. This was originally the Women and Children's Hospital. There is not even a dark room in the present building for the examination of eye cases. A small side-room formerly used as a lavatory has been converted into a dark room for which the walls had to be painted black. The ventilators had to be shielded and also to be painted black, and the doors have to be kept shut when anybody is being examined and nobody during the time the examination is conducted can bear the heat inside the room intensified by a large kerosine lamp in it. We have to abandon examining a series of cases sometimes owing to pluvial disadvantages. The heat is unbearable inside the room. Besides, there is no refraction room for testing the sight for glasses. The reflection of light is in the direction just opposite to that in which the doctor would like to have it, nor is the room long enough. It is all a make-shift arrangement. The operations on the eye, which is a very delicate and important organ, have to be done with the greatest care and with scrupulous cleanliness. All these cannot be guaranteed in that building. Further, there are instruments and appliances which we shall be getting very soon and which we have to fit up in order to work the hospital on better and more scientific lines, but for want of accommodation we shall not be able to fit them up. On this ground, and also because the mint buildings are unserviceable, I would urge the House to oppose the motion and recommend the construction of a stamp manufactory, so that the old mint building may be demolished and the out-patient department, the operation room and other parts that have yet to be constructed may be begun without any further delay in the new Ophthalmic hospital premises.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Sir, I strongly support the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, when he says that the construction of the building may be put off for some time. I do not support him when he says that the money may be utilised for the construction of the District Court house.

There has been a standing grievance that, in the sandy regions of the Shertallai taluk, we are not having even six miles of road all these years. By supporting this motion for not constructing the stamp manufactory building, I would invite the attention of the Government to the fact that the people of the Shertallai taluk are paying a big sum on account of land revenue and that at the same time they are suffering immensely for want of means of communication. Their wants as regards means of communication are not sufficiently attended to. Of course, even in the answer to my interpellation regarding the Shertallai canal, there is no indication as to within how many years it is going to be completed. In the answer to the same interpellation, Government were pleased to say that we had more than 100 miles of road.

In these circumstances, I am supporting Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, for not allotting this amount for the construction of the building that is proposed to be constructed. I once again respectfully draw the attention of the Council to the sandy regions of Shertallai where people are immensely suffering for want of roads.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, we are having a very interesting discussion modelled on a game of chess. The king is checkmated by the combined action of the knight and the castle and the queen on the opposite side. In the same way, the Chief Engineer stands on the ground of accommodation. The Financial Secretary stands on the ground of revenue and leakage. And, there is the Darbar Physician coming forward with the very important argument, *viz.*, the eye, which will certainly appeal to every one, so that it is likely that the House may be prejudiced in favour of the grant under this item. Mr. George has told us that there have been leakages. That is certainly not a matter upon which the Financial Secretary can be congratulated. If these leakages cannot be prevented by his own department, Mr. George will have to indent on the services of Mr. Pitt and his force. I daresay that the Police Department with its new Assistant Superintendents and numerous Inspectors will render the necessary help to Mr. George. The proposal to shift the stamp manufactory to the Government Press may be right from the point of view urged by Mr. George. But it will create complications later on. Although the present argument is that the Superintendent of the Press and the Assistant Superintendent may be asked to look after the stamp manufactory, in addition to their own work, this House will have to decide, later on, the question of their allowances, about which I have already argued in another connection. Thirdly, Sir, the case was made very serious indeed

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when some of the members on the official side of the House referred to the probability of abolishing the mint. You may call it an impulse, a sentiment, a weakness, or patriotism; but I must tell the House that the mint is not merely a manufactory of coins, but an emblem of Royalty. It is a right, a privilege, a mark of honour. The subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja cannot be looking on with indifference when this privilege is proposed to be surrendered.

PRESIDENT: May I correct you? The proposal is not to abolish the coinage, but minting, temporarily, if necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: That is exactly the way in which I understood it. The Birmingham firm is not going to do the work for nothing, and, moreover, we shall have to pay heavy freight. Is it not better that our labourers should be allowed to earn something on this account for making these coins? I cannot understand why these coins should be minted 8,000 miles away and why Travancore should be made to appear before the English people as a benighted place where the art of coinage is unknown.

MR. K. GEORGE: I wish to explain one thing. We have to suspend the minting of coins temporarily, because we have got such a plethora of them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: That is a result for which the Financial Department has to thank itself. A plethora is always bad. The mint should not have been worked at such high pressure in disregard of the demand for token coins. Let us regulate the supply and limit the production of these coins so that a plethora may be avoided. If you now have too many men working, reduce the establishment in a suitable manner. That is a simple rule of arithmetic. Sir, the closing of the mint forebodes several difficulties. The mint has been in existence for a very long time. So far as I am aware, the closing of the mint sometimes takes place in bimetallic countries under exceptional circumstances. Here, there is absolutely no trouble. As a point of principle, as a point of honour and as a point of expediency, I say that the mint should not be closed even for a single day, because it would affect the prestige of our beloved Maha Raja and affect the prestige of our Government. In defence of the prestige of the Travancore Government, I enter a strong protest against the stopping of the mint, and I hope I shall have the support of the members on both sides of the House.

PRESIDENT: I will explain, because I do not think that Mr. George has a right to speak again. I think there is a little misapprehension. There is no definite proposal either before the Government or before the House that the mint should be abolished. Even after the removal of the stamp manufactory to the Press there is nothing to prevent the mint also being removed there. That is only a suggestion coming from Mr. George.

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I am greatly comforted by your assurance. I trust that the mint will not be abolished. I feared that the Financial Secretary was trying to put in the thin end of the wedge. That fear having been dispelled by your authoritative pronouncement, I shall resume the subject of a separate building for the use of the stamp manufactory. If it is absolutely necessary to remove the plant and machinery from their present habitation, it can be done without erecting a new building; for, there is already a large number of palatial buildings which are owned by Government and occupied by their officers for nominal rents. One of these buildings will be quite suitable for the purpose. Sir, there is a loud outcry in the country against the unconscionable application of money in the rearing of pretentious structures. We have had ample evidence of it in this Council. If we have money, let us devote it, with a sense of responsibility, to purposes more beneficial to the people. Let us not waste it on buildings which we can very well do without. Let us not sanction any expenditure because a departmental head is pleased to ask for it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I support Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion. The position of Mr. George has been considerably strengthened by Dr. Lakshmanan, when he said that not only the stamp manufactory, but also the eyes of the people were in danger. With respect to the other argument of Mr. George, its tenability is questionable. For, it imp'ies a good deal when he said that the Superintendent of the Press might be employed to supervise the stamp manufactory as well. It certainly implies that the Superintendent of the Press has now a certain amount of leisure. When that particular motion was before the House, he did not inform us of this aspect of the matter.

PRESIDENT: You omit to note that the Assistant Superintendent or the Superintendent or any of the officers in the Press may be made to live in the Press premises.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: The practicability of that remains to be seen. When the grant to the Government Press was under discussion, it was represented that both the Superindentent and the Assistant Superintendent have unintermittent work throughout the whole day and I do not know how a change in their place of residence will enable them to find time for other work. But now comes the suggestion that one of them will have leisure to supervise other concerns.

As for Dr. Lakshmanan's point, he refers to the question of eyesight, which no doubt is an important matter. The Financial Secretary has referred to the question of stamp revenue. Here is a case of misfortunes never coming single.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: This is a new work estimated to cost Rs. 52,500, though the amount proposed to be spent this year is only Rs. 20,000. We do not know what the actual cost of the building

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will be when it is complete; but it is reasonable to presume that it will be far above the present estimated cost. This is not at all the time to start a new work of this kind; and no case of urgency has been made out, though the Financial Secretary has given us a long catalogue of the disadvantages of the existing arrangement. I would, therefore, strongly support the motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I find that the sum allotted for putting up this building is Rs. 52,500, out of which Rs. 20,000 alone is budgeted for the next year. That clearly shows that we are not going to have the construction of the stamp manufactory completed next year, and, for the next year, perhaps, the stamp manufactory will have to remain where it is. From what Mr. George and Dr. Lakshmanan said, I understood that the removal of the stamp manufactory was urgently required. If the construction is to take more than a year for completion, I do not see why the manufactory could not be located in some Government building which might lie vacant now for dearth of occupants. It must be possible for the Government to pitch upon some decent Government building where the manufactory might be located for the time being and to postpone the allotment of Rs. 20,000 postponed. I was very much grieved to hear the Financial Secretary telling us that a considerable wastage of the stamp manufactured has been going on for some years past. But for the immediate necessity for an out-patient ward for the Ophthalmic hospital, I feel that this wastage would not have been discovered at all.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: In the discussion in regard to Stationery and Printing, it was suggested on the side of the Government that they would seriously look into the matter of the Government Press and see whether it would not be more profitable to have ordinary printing matter done in private presses and confine the activities of the Government Press to printing confidential matters. In that case, if, after enquiry, the Government come to the conclusion that the activities of the Press may be restricted to the printing of confidential matter and such other work, then Government should consider whether it is not advisable to put off the construction of the stamp manufactory till the Government have come to some definite conclusion in regard to the Press after proper enquiry and investigation.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, the Financial Secretary was rightly anxious to have the stamp manufactory removed to a more commodious building. The Darbar Physician was also equally right in his anxiety to have the Ophthalmic hospital given all the space available as early as possible. So far as I am concerned, the lawyer has his own interest in regard to the court building. But the Chief Engineer was highly disinterested in the matter. He said that the stamp manufactory was a necessity and that the District Court building was in a very deplorable condition. I want the Government to choose between these two items and to provide for the one which is more urgent, as the allotment is only for one item. In case the stamp manufactory is removed to the Government Press premises, no doubt it will secure

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[Mr. R. Everard.]

certain advantages. But I think the stamp manufactory may, for some time to come, be located in a rented building or some other Government building which the Chief Engineer may point out, until our financial condition is better. So far as the District and the Munsiffs' Courts are concerned, it is not possible for such large institutions to be located anywhere else in the near future.

MR. K. GEORGE: We cannot have the stamp manufactory in any ordinary building in the town. We are dealing with valuables which cost thousands of rupees. We must have a strong room to stock these things.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: As for that matter, I would invite Mr. George to go over to the District Court and see how many heaps of records, which involve the safety of persons and property, are kept there. He will be astonished to find that there are very many important records kept in such a deplorable building as that. I am only sorry that in this particular matter the Law Member has not come forward to support my motion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Unless it be on a point of order! Here the allotment is for the construction of the stamp manufactory; Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wants it to be diverted for a building for the District Court. This is a question of diversion with which the Council is not concerned.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: With all respect for the Law Member, I would submit that this is not a question of diversion, so much as the necessity of taking up one particular work in Trivandrum in preference to some others. Here is an allotment for the construction of a stamp manufactory in Trivandrum. What I would urge is that there are works of a more urgent nature that should be attended to by the P. W. D. very much earlier. I think that I am at perfect liberty to advance arguments in favour of such a contention. In putting forward those arguments, I am at liberty to refer to the condition of the District Court building. I am only sorry that my friend who was the spokesman of Government in asking for the grant on "Administration of Justice," is not at all enthusiastic in this matter, while the Financial Secretary and the Darbar Physician were each interested in putting forward their respective claims. With these observations, I leave it to the Government at least to provide something for the District Court building before spending any money on other buildings.

I would now withdraw my motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I object to the withdrawal and I would press for a division.

MR. R. EVERARD: Sir, I can only say, besides the reasons given by the Financial Secretary for the construction of a new building for the stamp manufactory, that all the site where it is at present

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located is required for the Ophthalmic hospital. Dr. Lakshmanan has just now told us that it is urgently necessary. By constructing the stamp manufactory in the Press compound, we avoid the payment of land acquisition charges and bring the stamp manufactory nearer to the Stamp Depôt which is in the Huzur Cutcherry. The cost of conveyance to the depôt will also be less.

Regarding Mr. Raman Pillai's argument that the building is not likely to be finished in 1098, I may tell the House that the estimate of Rs. 52,500 is both for the stamp manufactory and the mint buildings. The building for the stamp manufactory alone would be completed within Rs. 20,000. Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai says that the building for the District Court should be first built before the stamp manufactory building is taken up. Although the present District Court building is in a bad state, the estimate for a new District Court building comes to about Rs. 2 lakhs and it will not be possible to finish it in one or two years. I, therefore, think that the construction of the stamp manufactory, for which the amount allotted is only Rs. 20,000, will not interfere with the discretion of the House to permit the construction of the District Court when funds become available. In view of these facts, I would request Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai to withdraw his motion.

PRESIDENT: I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House.

The motion was put and lost, 20 voting *for* and 26 *against*.

***Motion* 165.**

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

165. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,91,640 for buildings (original works) by Rs. 17,350 by not constructing a big plant shed for the P. W. D. Workshops, Trivandrum, a Travellers' Bungalow at Parur, and out-houses, etc., to the Travellers' Bungalow at Pallikkal. (Items 65, 70, 75, page 6 of appendix B. of the budget estimate).

The amounts sought to be reduced by this motion is the total of the sums provided for all the three works. One is the construction of a plant shed for the P. W. D. Workshop in Trivandrum. Another is the Travellers' bungalow at Parur and the third the out-houses to the Travellers' bungalow at Pallikal. I shall now take up the first item. So far as I have been able to ascertain, this workshop is a superfluous appendage to the Public Works Department. Of course, this may be a serious charge to lay at the door of the Engineering Department. But, if it is to be run on the present lines, I think it is better to abolish this workshop, or to so mend it as not to make it a losing concern. Perhaps, any criticism about the workshop is not quite in place now. I only want to say that there is no necessity for putting up a building for a plant-shed like that.

As regards the Travellers' bungalow at Parur, I do not see any practical use for it, because there is no need for any public works business to be done there, nor do any visitors go and stay there. If they want, they can very easily go from Parur to Alwaye in half an hour's time by motor, where there is accommodation for visitors.

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[Mr. R. Everard.]

Hence it is not at all an urgent necessity to have a Travellers' bungalow at Parur.

The same is the case in regard to the construction of out-houses to the Travellers' bungalow at Pallikal.

These three items of work can very well afford to wait and they may be deferred to a better year of finance.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I rise to a point of order.

I have given notice of a motion for the reduction of the allotments made for two items of work. One of these is the Travellers' bungalow at Parur, about which Mr. A. Govinda Menon has just now spoken. I think it will be more advantageous when we go into divisions to vote upon this item separately.

PRESIDENT: I see no harm in adopting the suggestion. I understand that you propose to speak on the travellers' bungalow at Parur.

MR. R. EVERARD: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. In the first place, the total grant for the three works referred to by the member is Rs. 8,500 and not Rs. 17,350.

In regard to item 65, *viz.*, constructing a big plant shed for the Workshops and Stores Division, for which a provision of Rs. 5,000 is made in the budget, the shed is very necessary. At present, the portable engines and other valuable machinery, such as steam road-rollers, etc., are kept in the open in the workshops yard exposed to sun and rain. The yard is congested in consequence. Such costly plant deteriorate by exposure, resulting in loss to Government. So a large shed in which the plant may be kept when they are returned to the workshops in the slack season, or for repairs, has been felt to be very necessary and Mr. Parratt has been urging the same. It is proposed to be constructed in the ice-house compound. An estimate for Rs. 9,310 is pending sanction with the Government.

The work is necessary in the interests of Government property, but if the House is unwilling to sanction the grant, it may lie over till our finances improve.

Next, in regard to item 70, *viz.*, constructing a travellers' bungalow at Parur, for which a provision of Rs. 3,000 is made in the budget, I am sorry I am obliged to oppose this motion also. The provision made in the budget is for the acquisition of a site for the Travellers' bungalow, 1¼ acres in extent. The need for a Travellers' bungalow has been felt since 1915. There was an old camp-shed at the place, but it has since been dismantled and the site on which it stood handed over to the Medical Department. So, any person who has to go to Parur on business has no place to stay in, unless he has some friends or relations to put him up. There is a District Court at Parur and there are other public offices to which people have to resort; and officers of the

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Police, Excise, Revenue and P. W. and other departments who have to go to Parur on duty have no place where they can halt.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: May I know whether there is no satrom at Parur?

MR. R. EVERARD: There is no satrom.

An estimate for Rs. 14,550 for constructing a second class Travellers' bungalow with the necessary out-houses was sanctioned in 1918; but, for want of funds and a suitable site, it has not been possible to construct these buildings. A site has now been selected and acquisition proceedings are in progress. Owing to the financial difficulties at present, it is proposed to acquire the site and construct a semi-permanent camp-shed on it at a cost of Rs. 2,000, which will give the officers and the public a resting place until we are in a position to take up the construction of the second class Travellers' bungalow. In view of the fact that there is neither a Travellers' bungalow nor a camp-shed within a radius of nine miles from Parur and the absolute and urgent necessity for a resting place at Parur, I am sorry I cannot accept the motion.

PRESIDENT: This item will have to be voted upon separately. But you may explain the third item also.

MR. R. EVERARD: Lastly in regard to item 75, *viz.*, special repairs to the Pallikal Travellers' bungalow for which a provision of Rs. 500 is made in the budget, the work consists of constructing a kitchen and a privy which are very badly required. This is only a small item of Rs. 500 and may be passed. Be it noted that the amount is only Rs. 500, instead of Rs. 9,350 as supposed by the member. As the travellers who use this bungalow are put to inconvenience for want of the necessary out-houses and as the work has to be carried out in 1098, I hope Mr. Govinda Menon will see his way to withdraw his motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, I had been for three years at Parur. I found that there was very great necessity for a Travellers' bungalow. The Chief Engineer, the Director of Public Instruction, the Director of Agriculture and other inspecting officers go there; they have not a proper place—not even a satrom to go to. At present there is a small thatched shed—

PRESIDENT: The proposal is to acquire some land and to put up a thatched Travellers' bungalow there.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Yes, it is very necessary. The necessity has arisen on account of the hospital having come in there. I am against Mr. Govinda Menon's motion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: I very strongly support Mr A. Govinda Menon's motion. As Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai observed, the greater portion of the allotment for the P. W. D. is spent on buildings. I beg to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that, instead of putting up so many buildings in the shape of Travellers' bungalows, it would be much better if Government directed their energy towards improving means of communication in such sandy parts as the Shertallai

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[Mr. R. Everard.]

vakils in this Council whose votes may turn the balance. But I should like to point out that clients are not put to much difficulty in getting accommodation, and I do not believe that the proposal for a Travellers' bungalow has emanated from any solicitude for their convenience. Your departmental buildings are the close preserves of officials and other well-to-do people. Residence in a Travellers' bungalow for however short a time entails the payment of building rent; and that would naturally be a red-rag to ordinary men and women.

I would therefore request the members, particularly my official friends, to take a dispassionate view of the situation. We have been very reasonable and often generous in awarding funds when the officials asked for the same. Let us now claim a reciprocity of treatment. I would therefore earnestly request the members on the other side of the House to come forward and say: "Let us consider this next time".

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Sir, നൂതനമായ കെട്ടിടവേലകൾക്കുള്ള ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ. ഗോവിന്ദമേനവന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു.

വിവരിച്ചെഴുതീട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറിനെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അതിൽ കാണുന്ന എല്ലാ കെട്ടിടവേലകളും അത്യാവശ്യവേലകളായി ഗണിച്ചിട്ടാണ് അതിൽ ചേർത്തു കാണുന്നത്. ഇതുകളെക്കാൾ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനവും ഉപയോഗപ്രദവുമായുമുള്ള അസംഖ്യം വേലകൾ ഇവിടെ നടത്തേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. ഒരു കെട്ടിടവേലയ്ക്ക് ആദ്യം നിശ്ചയിയ്ക്കുന്ന അടങ്കൽ കൊണ്ട് ആ വേലനടത്തി അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ വളരെക്കുറവായിരിക്കുമെന്ന് ആർക്കും ധൈര്യമായിപറയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇഞ്ചിനീയർവകുപ്പിലെ ചുമതലപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അടങ്കൽ തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നജോലിയോ ശരിയായമേൽപരിശോധനയും ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടോന്ന് അടങ്കൽ ഉകകരം പിന്നിട്ട സീമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിക്കാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നത്. ദൃഷ്ടാന്തം പറയുന്നതായാൽ പേച്ചിപ്പാറ ഒരു കെട്ടിടം പണിക്ക് അടങ്കൽ തയ്യാറാക്കി ഗവർൺമെന്റു വരെ അനുവദിച്ചു വന്ന് കൺറാക്ടർ വേല തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ മാത്രമെ കെട്ടിടത്തിന്റെ അടങ്കലിൽ കഴക്കോൽ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടില്ലന്ന് അറിയാൻ ഇടയായുള്ളൂ. ഇങ്ങനെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമില്ലാതെ അടങ്കലുകൾ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതിലും വേലകൾ നടത്തുന്നതിലും ഗവർൺമെന്റിന് പലവിധമായ നഷ്ടങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇടയാകുന്നു. ഈ വിധം കെട്ടിടവേലകൾ നടത്തുന്നുള്ള കോശസ്ഥിതി ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം അവയെ മാറ്റിവയ്ക്കുന്നത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. R. EVERARD: As regards the Travellers' bungalow at Parur, I have already said that Rs. 3,000 is for acquiring land for constructing a camp-shed. Mr. Panjikaran referred to want of funds for means of communication in the Shertallai taluk. I have to say that Government are alive to the need of roads and communications there and to the need of the two bridges referred to by him. An estimate has been called for, for constructing a road from Shertallai to Tannirmukkam, and I hope that next year the bridges would be taken up. Now the canals up to Munambam come under the Canals and Ferries Regulation and the P. W. D. officers have to camp at Parur. There is also a court-house there, as I have said, and all these necessitate the construction of a camp-shed. However, in the face of the opposition from the other side, I accept the suggestion to postpone the work.

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MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Then, I withdraw the motion in respect of out-houses to the Pallikal camp-shed.

PRESIDENT: In view of the points agreed to by Mr. Everard the motion now under discussion may be amended as follows:

165. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,91,640 for buildings (original works) by Rs. 8,000, by not constructing a big plant-shed for the P. W. D. Workshops, Trivandrum, and a Traveller's bungalow at Parur (Items-65 and 70- page vi of appendix B. of the budget esimate).

MR A. GOVINDA MENON: I move my motion as thus amended.

The amended motion was put and carried.

Motion 166.

The motion, as originally tabled, stood as follows:

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

166. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,91,640 for buildings (original works) by Rs. 4,400, by not constructing a Travellers' bungalow at Parur and a motor shed, etc., to the Travellers' bungalow at Munnar (Items 70 and 71- page vi of appendix B. of the budget estimate.)

It was amended with the President's permission as follows:

166. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,91,640 for buildings (original works) by Rs. 1,400 (by not constructing a motor-shed to the Travellers' bungalow at Munnar. (Item 71-page vi of appendix B. of the budget estimate.)

I have seen this Travellers' bungalow and it appears to me that it is not at all an urgent matter to put up a motor-shed to the Munnar Travellers' bungalow. At any rate, in the present state of our finance, that is a matter which can wait. There is absolutely no urgency as the motor-shed is more or less a luxury. The road too is a luxury which we cannot now afford. I, therefore, propose that that amount should be reduced from the grant.

MR. R. EVERARD: Sir, I oppose the motion. Much inconvenience has been felt by the travellers who use the Munnar Travellers' bungalow for want of a shed in which they can keep their motor cars. It is not unknown to the members of this House that Munnar, being on the High Range, has a heavy rainfall and that cars cannot be kept in the open there. As long as we collect rents from the travellers occupying the Travellers' bungalow, I think we should provide a shed wherein they can keep their cars protected from the rain. An estimate was therefore sanctioned in September 1921 for Rs. 1,470 and the required provision made in the budget for 1098.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: Will the Chief Engineer tell us what the collection from the travellers is?

MR. R. EVERARD: The average collection is Rs. 283 and the cost of maintenance Rs. 1,000.

The House knows that roads deteriorate much more quickly on the High Range. I shall, however, accept a cut of Rs. 400 omitting repairs to the road.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: We shall rather have the road.

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[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. R. EVERARD: The road is in existence; but without the motor-shed, there is no use of the Travellers' bungalow.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: A bamboo thatched shed will not cost more than Rs. 50.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I would request Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai to withdraw his objection. The owners of motor-cars will have to be given the facility of having their cars in their proper place; and Mr. Everard has been generous enough with regard to the road. Let us also meet him half-way. That is my impression.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, in spite of Mr. Velu Pillai's pathetic appeal to his non-official friends, I am inclined to support Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. I should consider that a motor-shed should be constructed at a lesser cost. The Chief Secretary would tell us that, when he came to Quilon, he had to put up a motor-shed that would not have cost him more than Rs. 100. I hope Mr. Everard will be satisfied with Rs. 100.

MR. JOHN MACKIE: Erecting a motor-shed at Munnar is different from erecting a motor-shed at Quilon. The cost at Munnar is considerably higher than at Quilon. I would also point out that owners of motor-cars pay fees for the use of the motor-sheds at Travellers' bungalows. There is, therefore, revenue also accruing from the provision of the motor-shed. I should think that the allotment is necessary.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: The Financial Secretary tells us that it is difficult to make both ends meet. Let us therefore not spend anything to satisfy the needs of the rich. So, I support the motion of Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. C. J. CURIEN: Government are maintaining a Travellers' bungalow at Munnar. It is their duty to provide travellers with sheds for their cars also. To construct a motor-shed with cadjan leaves would be most preposterous. I would oppose the motion.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, I would take this opportunity of protesting against the policy of building Travellers bungalows.

PRESIDENT: The present question is not that; it is the putting up of a motor-shed. We are not discussing the policy underlying the construction of Travellers' bungalows.

MR. K. C. MAMMAN MAPPILLAI: Sir, I just incidentally referred to it. Anyhow I am against any extension whether in the shape of a motor-shed or any other building.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN: I think that a motor-shed is absolutely necessary at Munnar.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion to a division, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir, I press my motion to a division. I have seen the Travellers' bungalows at Munnar

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and Devicolam. They are absolutely useless. The Travellers' bungalow at Munnar brings in only an income of Rs. 283. I, therefore, think that there is absolutely no urgency for constructing a motor-shed at this juncture.

MR. R. EVERARD: Sir, the collection amounts to Rs. 283 only on an average. But I wish to state that Rs. 1,000 for the construction of the motor-shed is not a recurring expenditure. A motor-shed would cost much more at Munnar than on the plains. I am of opinion that a motor-shed is essential. A temporary bamboo-mat motor-shed would not last long and is likely to take fire. I cannot, therefore, find my way to reduce the allotment.

PRESIDENT: I now put the motion to the vote.

The motion was put and lost, 19 voting *for* and 24 *against*.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move that the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill which was read in the Council on the 19th July, 1922, be finally read and passed to-day.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: I second it.

The motion was carried.

The Council adjourned at 5-14 P. M., to meet at 11-30 A. M. on Saturday, the 5th August, 1922.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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